

Dear FCC,

This is in regards to petition RM-10787 filed by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC).

Let me first say that all Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiners (VEs) are volunteers. No Volunteer Examiner (VE) is forced to administer amateur radio examinations to anyone. Therefore I feel the NCVEC should not be complaining about administering amateur radio exams, or trying to do away with any part of an amateur radio examination requirement, be it the written or Morse code.

If VEs including the NCVEC feel they can no longer do the volunteer work they've been doing, they should step aside and let someone or another testing organization, or group, who can and will do the job of administering amateur radio exams do it. I myself being a current ARRL Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner disagree with the NCVEC when they say Morse code testing unnecessarily burdens applicants, VECs, the FCC and the Amateur Service community.

I disagree when the NCVEC says that the Amateur Service community suffers from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators because of the Morse code requirement. I think it is more of a society problem whereby most people want to obtain something without committing themselves or taking the time to actually study or making an effort to learn something. In other words most people now-a-days want everything given to them without working for it.

The requirement for an applicant to demonstrate a Morse code skill for HF access should remain as it is now, and should not be removed. The countries that still require Morse code testing for amateur radio licensing or HF access far exceed those that don't. In my opinion for the United States to do away with the Morse code requirement would be a big mistake that would only hurt amateur radio's reputation of having skilled and qualified operators.

Some people say Morse code is an antiquated skill or obsolete, but Morse code is still widely used today not just in amateur radio, but in the commercial industry as well, to identify communications systems and links.

It is also widely used by some people who are physically disabled or handicap as a means of communicating. Even NASA Astronauts to this day still use Morse code, the U.S. Navy still uses light Morse too. The fact that

lots of radio amateurs have taken and passed the Morse examination for HF access indicates Morse code testing is not a hindrance or limiting licensed amateurs from upgrading.

I say no to RM-10787. Morse code and Morse code testing is part of amateur radio and what amateur radio is about. Morse code has been an integral part of amateur radio since its inception and should not be removed as a requirement for amateur upgrading or HF access, doing so would only hurt the hobby in the long run.

RM-10787 should also be discounted entirely on the grounds that the NCVEC has been a source of suspected amateur testing irregularities and improprieties over the years as indicated in previous FCC cases.

Sincerely,

Victor Magana, N1VM